

B.) AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 2. (currently amended) A collective procurement management system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing a plurality of processing instructions that enable the processor to:

receive a purchase request from each of a plurality of purchasers, each purchase request including a purchase price for an item;

receive, from at least one seller, a supply commitment for the item, the supply commitment including a plurality of supply prices, each supply price corresponding to a quantity of the item to be included in an order;

group said plurality of purchase requests, based on the item and the purchase price, into a collective procurement order;

identify a final supply price for the collective procurement order based on the ordered quantity of the item in the collective procurement order and the supply commitment;
and

fulfill said collective procurement order with respect to each of said plurality of purchasers, based on each requested purchase price and received supply commitments, at least one of said purchase requests being fulfilled at the final supply price when the final supply price is lower than the purchase price included in a purchase request.

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Claim 3. (previously presented) The system of claim 2, said memory further comprising an inventory database including a listing of at least one item available for purchase by the plurality of purchasers.

Claim 4. (previously presented) The system of claim 2 wherein the processor groups each purchase request based on a similar item requested by the plurality of purchasers.

Claim 5. (previously presented) The system of claim 2 wherein the processor groups each purchase request only if the purchase requests specify the same item.

Claim 6. (previously presented) The system of claim 2 wherein the processor fulfills the collective procurement order if the plurality of purchase requests satisfy at least one threshold condition.

Claim 7. (previously presented) The system of claim 6, said threshold condition including a minimum number of purchasers in the collective procurement order.

Claim 8. (previously presented) The system of claim 6, said threshold condition including a minimum quantity of requested items in the collective procurement order.

Claim 9. (previously presented) The system of claim 6, said threshold condition including a minimum total order price for the collective procurement order, the total order price based on the plurality of purchase prices and a number of requested items in the collective procurement order.

Claim 10. (currently amended) A method for fulfilling a collective procurement order between at least one supplier and a plurality of purchasers, the method comprising:

receiving a purchase request from each of a plurality of purchasers, the purchase request including a purchase price for an identified item;

receiving a supply commitment from at least one supplier for the identified item, the supply commitment including a plurality of supply prices, each supply price corresponding to a quantity of the item to be included in an order;

selectively grouping said plurality of purchase requests, based on said identified item and the purchase price, to create a collective procurement order;

identifying a final supply price for the collective procurement order based on the ordered quantity of the item in the collective procurement order and the supply commitment; and

fulfilling said collective procurement order between said at least one supplier and said plurality of purchasers, based on each purchase price received from each of the plurality of purchasers and received supply commitments, at least one of said purchase requests being fulfilled at the final supply price when the final supply price is lower than the purchase price included in a purchase request.

Claim 11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said collective procurement order is fulfilled by a plurality of suppliers, each of said suppliers fulfilling a portion of said collective procurement order.

Claim 13. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, said fulfilling further comprising:

fulfilling the collective procurement order only if a minimum total quantity of the identified item is ordered from the plurality of purchase requests.

Claim 14. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ 10, said fulfilling further comprising:

fulfilling said collective procurement order only if a minimum number of purchasers are grouped.

Claim 15. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ 10, said fulfilling further comprising:

fulfilling the collective procurement order only if a minimum total order price is established for the collective procurement order, based on the plurality of purchase requests.

Claim 16. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said purchase price received from each of said purchasers includes a plurality of prices, each price corresponding to different quantities of the identified item in the purchase request.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
receiving at least one acceptable price from the at least one supplier, each
acceptable price corresponding to a total quantity of the identified item in the collective
procurement order.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, each said purchase request
specifying at least one additional purchase condition in connection with the identified item.

Claims 32-34. (canceled)

Claim 36. (currently amended) A method for completing collective procurement management orders, comprising:

receiving a purchase request from each of a plurality of purchasers, ~~the~~ each purchase request including a purchase price and a quantity of an item;

receiving a supply commitment from for the identified item from each of a plurality of suppliers, each supply commitment including a plurality of supply prices, each supply price corresponding to a quantity of the item to be included in an order;

grouping said purchase requests into a collective procurement order, based on the requested item and the purchase price;

identifying a final supply price for the collective procurement order based on the ordered quantity of the item in the collective procurement order and the supply commitments;
and

completing the collective procurement order such that said plurality of purchase requests are fulfilled with respect to each said purchase price and received supply commitments,
at least one of said purchase requests being fulfilled at the final supply price when the final supply price is lower than the purchase price included in a purchase request.

Claim 37. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, said purchase request including at least one additional purchase criteria.

Claim 38. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
notifying at least one purchaser of a pending collective procurement order based upon
profile information of the at least one user.

Claim 39. (currently amended) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
identifying, to the at least one supplier, a number of purchase requests forming
said collective procurement order, wherein said supply price is based on the number of purchase
requests, ~~said completing further comprising:~~
~~completing the collective procurement order based on each purchase price and the~~
~~seller price.~~

Claim 40. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
notifying the plurality of purchasers of an amount of time remaining prior to a
closing of the collective procurement order.

Claim 42. (previously presented) The system of claim 2, said plurality of purchasers
comprising at least two purchasers providing different purchase prices.

Claim 43. (canceled)

Claim 44. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, said plurality of purchasers
comprising at least two purchasers providing different purchase prices.

Claim 45. (canceled)